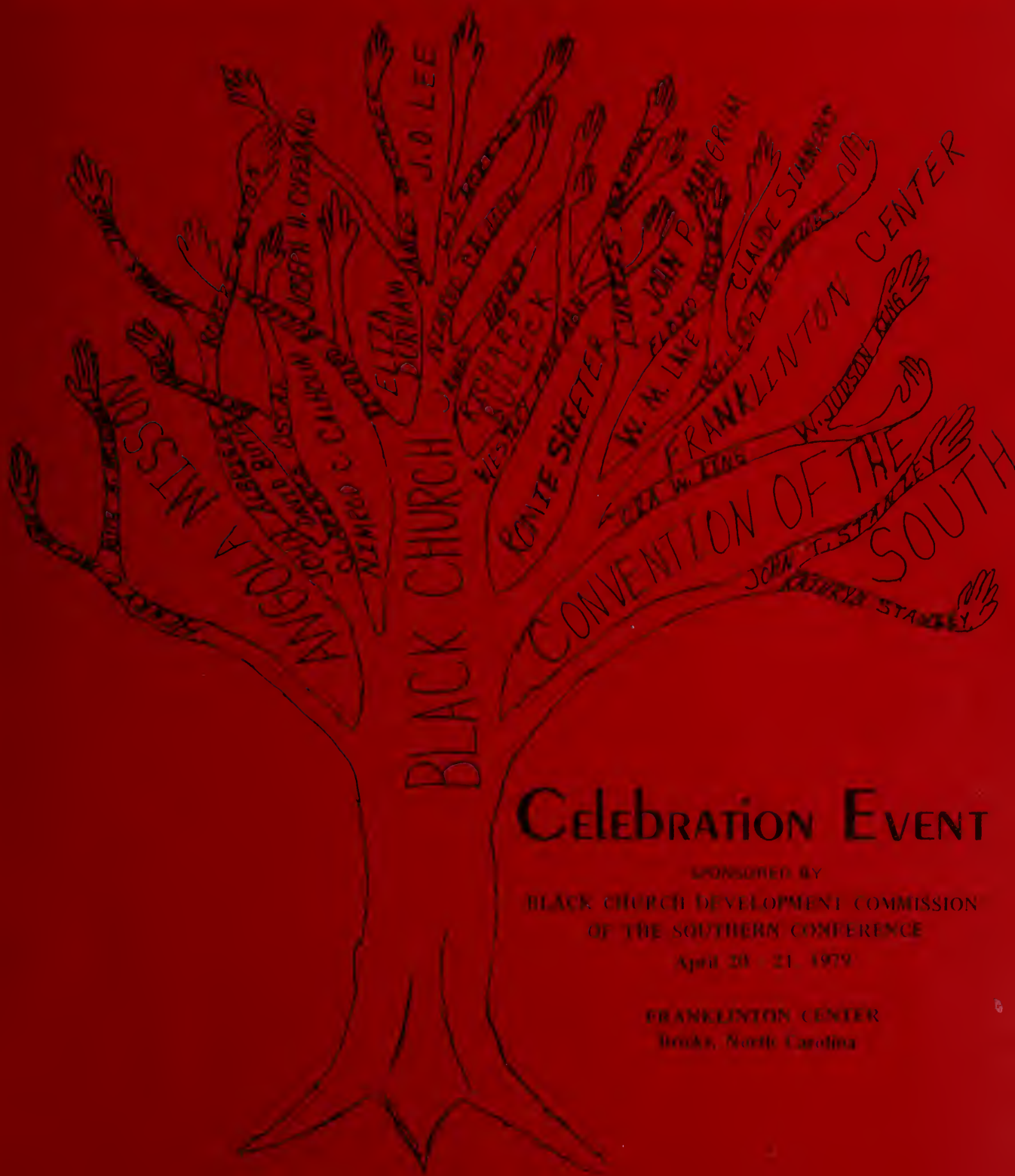


Lest We Forget:

Our God - Our Heritage - Our Responsibilities



CELEBRATION EVENT

SPONSORED BY
BLACK CHURCH DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
OF THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

April 20 - 21, 1979

FRANKLINTON CENTER
Brooks, North Carolina

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

We as a people have come this far by faith. We have come through all our history, experiences and culture believing in a God whose power and spirit has never failed us yet. We have come to this place in history because of persons and institutions which have given us meaning and value, the faith to persevere, the courage to resist oppression and love to lift us from slavery to freedom.

This occasion provides us the opportunity to lift up the particular contributions that Mrs. Ora King and the Reverend W. Judson King have made through their ministry at Franklinton Center; that Mrs. Ruth A. McDowell and the Reverend Henry Curtis McDowell have made to us through their ministry and service as missionaries to Angola, in West Africa; and that Mrs. Kathryn T. Stanley and the Reverend J. Taylor Stanley have made to us through their ministry and service in the Convention of the South.

This occasion further provides us the opportunity to lift up the particular contributions of ministry and service of Black Ministers 70 and over in the Southern Conference. To our knowledge, this list includes:

Rev. John W. Albright
Rev. Robert J. Alston
Rev. Blackwell
Rev. Richard D. Bullock
Rev. David P. Butts
Rev. Nimrod C. Calhoun
Rev. Joseph H. Copeland
Rev. Eliza Durham
Rev. Clarence N. Dortch
Rev. Wesley Freeman
Rev. James M. Harris
Rev. Thomas C. Hamans
Rev. Oscar A. Hazel
Rev. James H. Hooker
Rev. W. M. Lake
Rev. Junous O. Lee
Rev. John P. Mangrum
Rev. Curtis P. Meadows
Rev. L. J. Morris
Rev. Floyd Miles
Rev. Claude C. Simmons
Rev. Romie R. Skeeter
Rev. William H. Thomas

Equally important, this occasion provides us the clergy, laity, and youth of the Southern Conference the opportunity to re-dedicate our energies to the task of mission and ministry by working for strong institutions such as Franklinton Center, our own churches, and by committing our skills and talents to the liberation of our people.

We have gathered here in this place to remember the past, to celebrate the present and to look with hopeful anticipation toward the future.

"Facing the Rising Sun
of a Day that has just Begun
Let us March on
'Til our Victory has been Won."

A LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE

LEADER: Our beginning was one which combined the noble with the humble; the strong with the weak; the courageous with the timid and through faith we pursued a common goal - the establishment of Black Congregational and Christian Churches.

RESPONSE: We remember.

LEADER: Our beginning meant cooperation, organization, buildings and equipment, schools, and other foundations for establishing Black self-hood.

RESPONSE: We remember.

LEADER: Our beginning included extra duty, long hours, long days, long trips, long sermons, many meetings, constantly low pay, total commitment and great sacrifice for many.

RESPONSE: We remember

LEADER: Our beginning found us volunteering for many of the services that had to be done.

RESPONSE: We remember.

LEADER: We needed education and we went to school. We needed schools and we got them built: in Troy, Kings Mountain, Beaufort, Wilmington, Sedalia, Franklinton and Franklinton Center (the old and the new).

RESPONSE: We remember.

LEADER: Each step in achievement, each student that earned a diploma or a degree, each mortgage made and paid - all had special meaning for us.

RESPONSE: We remember.

LEADER: We received little encouragement from the press. Many regarded our church style as a mess, but a closer look revealed that in our midst the Holy One did exist. So regardless of all the rest, we really believe we had the best - our Christian faith - our mode of worship, and our devotion to Christ.

RESPONSE: We remember.

LEADER: In 1931 a merger was made and the word went out that the foundation was laid for a better day to come when we would all be one. But the prospects were not very bright: we were still two churches - one Black and one White.

RESPONSE: We remember.

LEADER: In 1957 the United Church of Christ was born. Our home-work being done, once again the word went out, "That They May All Be One."

RESPONSE: We remember.

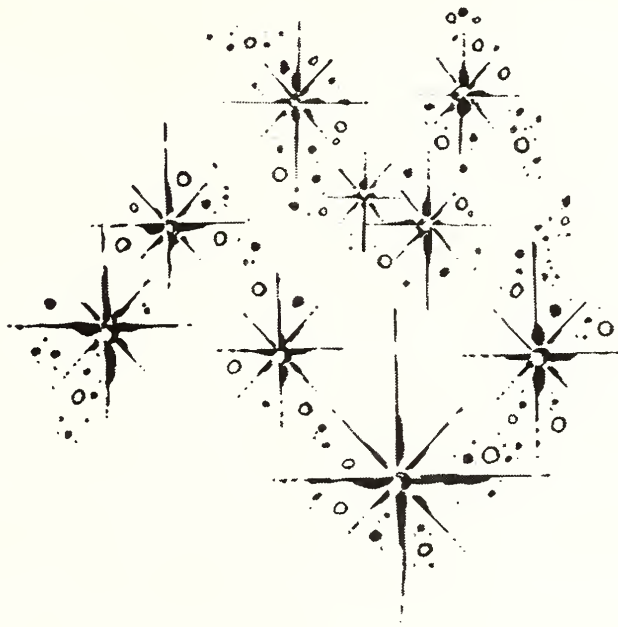
LEADER: In 1965 we heeded the call to do our best to straighten out our geographic interest. We got another merger - judicatorial style - the local churches would have to wait awhile.

RESPONSE: We remember.

LEADER: Twelve years have passed and we believe the merger will last. After all, we have the Mangrum, McDowell, Simmons, Haman, Calhoun, Hooker, Alston, Coker, Copeland, Butts, Albright, Lake, Bullock, Thomas and Stanley. We should survive and that right handily.

RESPONSE: We remember.

ALL: Let us all remember the hard work, the energy, the expense, the dedication, and the spirit of cooperation with which we have worked to bring ourselves to this day. We have only begun with a long race yet to be run. Let us remember to forever cherish the friendship, love and happiness we have shared through the years. Let us vow now to work together henceforward in the spirit of love until the final day of redemption.



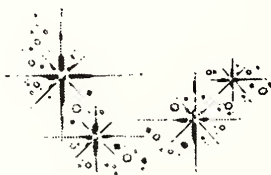
PROGRAM FOR OUR CELEBRATION BANQUET

APRIL 20, 1979

7:00 p. m.



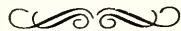
PRESIDING	Mr. William Parker, Coordinator of Black Church Development
THE OCCASION	
MUSIC	Mrs. Delores Harvey Anderson, Instructor of Business Halifax County Community College
INVOCATION	Rev. John Little
WELCOME and STATEMENT of PURPOSE	Mrs. Lula Copeland, Chairperson of Celebration Event
INTRODUCTION OF HONOREES	Mr. William Parker
LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE	Rev. James Morrison, Associate Conference Minister, Southern Conference
BLESSING FOR MEAL	Dr. Ronald Morris, Executive Director of Franklinton Center
DINNER	
<u>A TIME OF TRIBUTE</u>	
TO: REV. JUDSON KING and MRS. ORA KING	Rev. Dr. Yvonne Delk, Associate for Constituency Development of the Office for Church in Society
TO: MRS. RUTH A. MCDOWELL and REV. HENRY C. MCDOWELL	Rev. Maynard Catchings Associate Secretary for Overseas Personnel, United Church Board for World Ministries
TO: MRS. KATHRYN STANLEY and REV. J. TAYLOR STANLEY	Rev. Dr. Percel Alston, Secretary for Urban and Black Church Development, United Church Board for Homeland Ministries
TO: MINISTERS 70 AND OVER	Dr. James H. Lightbourne, Jr., Conference Minister, Southern Conference
SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO HONOREES	Mr. Gary Grant and Mrs. Evangeline Grant Redding Heritage of Hope Productions
CLOSING REMARKS	William Parker, Jr.
BENEDICTION	Rev. James Morrison



PROGRAM FOR OUR DAY OF CELEBRATION

APRIL 21, 1979

10:00 a. m.



PRESIDING	Mr. William Parker, Jr., Coordinator of Black Church Development Commission of the Southern Conference
MUSIC	Choirs of Zion Bethel UCC, Portsmouth, Va.
WELCOME/STATEMENT OF PURPOSE	Mrs. Lula Copeland, Chairperson of the Celebration of the Event
CONGREGATIONAL HYMN	"What A Fellowship"
INVOCATION	Rev. Leon White Executive Director of North Carolina/Virginia Field Office of Commission for Racial Justice
A LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE	Rev. James Morrison, Associate Conference Minister of the Southern Conference
MUSIC	Zion Bethel United Church of Christ Choir, Portsmouth, Virginia
A TIME FOR REMEMBERING	
The Angola Mission	Mrs. Ruth A. McDowell Rev. Henry Curtis McDowell
Franklinton Center	Mrs. Kathryn T. Stanley Rev. J. Taylor Stanley
Franklinton Center	Mrs. Ora King Rev. W. Judson King
CONGREGATIONAL HYMN	"We've Come This Far By Faith"
MUSIC BREAK (15 minutes)	Tea, Coffee, Punch
A TIME FOR HONORING:	
The Kings	Mrs. Evangeline Grant Redding, Heritage of Hope Productions/Tillery Community
The McDowells	Rev. Maynard Catchings Associate Secretary for Overseas Personnel, United Church Board for World Ministries
The Stanleys	Rev. Dr. Percel O. Alston, Secretary for Urban and Black Church Development, United Church Board for Homeland Ministries

Ministers 70 and Over

Rev. Joseph M. Copeland,
Pastor of Union United Church of Christ, Norfolk
Virginia and Zion United Church of Christ, Suffolk
Virginia

MUSIC

A TIME FOR RE-DEDICATION

Worship Leader

Rev. Dr. Yvonne Delk
Associate for Constituency Development of the
Office for Church in Society, United Church of Christ

MUSIC

Dedication Statements

by the gathered community

Prayer of Dedication

Life Every Voice and Sing

by the gathered community

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING
FOR MEAL

Dr. James Lightbourne, Jr.,
Conference Minister of the Southern Conference

A TIME FOR FELLOWSHIP

Sharing a Meal Together

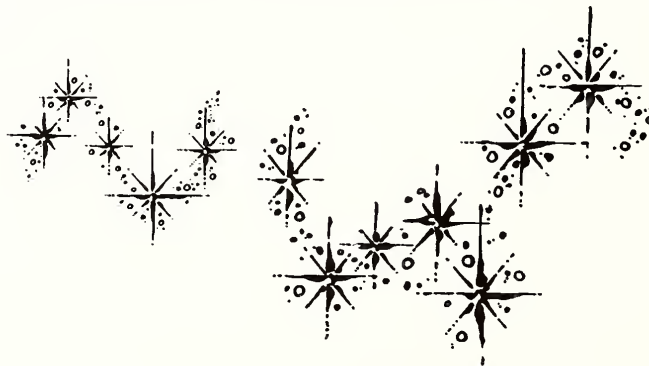
Meeting and Greeting our Honorees to say our "special and personal" words.

An Autograph Celebration for the Reverend J. Taylor Stanley

A TIME TO DEPART

LEST WE FORGET:

*WE DEPART TO CONTINUE OUR DREAMS, TO SERVE OUR GOD,
COMMITTED TO THE TASK OF PRESERVING OUR INSTITUTIONS,
AND ENGAGING IN THE MINISTRY FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE.*



Lest We Forget:

OUR MISSION IN ANGOLA 1919 - 1959



OUR MISSION IN AFRICA

The history of Black UCC mission in Africa can be traced back to the 1840's when a group of concerned abolitionists who later became the American Missionary Association (AMA) joined in an effort to secure the release of a group of Africans known as the American Captives. Led by their great leader — Cinque, these African men and women were captured after they engineered a mutiny aboard a ship called the Amistad that was bringing them to the new world as slaves. John Quincy Adams was asked to represent the Africans in court. His defense, along with the passionate speech of Cinque, resulted in the Supreme Court decision which freed them to return to their native land in the Sierra Leone, West Africa.

It was decided that American Blacks should accompany the freed Africans back to Sierra Leone and the First Black Congregational Missionaries were sent to Africa. The famous Mendi Mission in Sierra Leone, West Africa came into being. Over the year, many Black Congregational workers were sent.

In 1865, American Blacks were emancipated and the American Missionary Association entered a vast open field of great magnitude. The English Plymouth Brethern had also established missions in Sierra Leone and in the early '80's the Mendi Mission was delegated to them. The Black Congregationalists returned to the States, with the exception of one family that was transferred to Mount Salanda Mission in Rhodesia.

Approximately thirty years passed and there were no Black Congregational Missionaries in Africa. Then Dr. H. H. Proctor, pastor of First Congregational Church in Atlanta, Georgia dropped a bombshell at the annual meeting of the American Board in Boston in 1910. He reviewed the history noted above, citing in particular that Black leaders in all areas of life had been educated in American Missionary Association Schools, and reminded them that the A. M. A. had as one of its founding objectives the education of Blacks to help evangelize and educate Africans. The American Board took the point seriously and, after due deliberation, sent Cornelius Patton to visit the American Missions and confer with the missionaries. His recommendation was that Angola was the most promising field for Black missions in Africa.

It was revealed by the American Missionary Association that the Avery Arthington Fund existed and that this fund had the stipulation that it was to be used to help recruit and fund American Blacks as missionaries in Africa. The American Board demonstrated its seriousness by appointing Rev. and Mrs. Daniel A. Hastings to the Angola Mission in 1916. They were Jamaicans who had studied at Butler University and Chicago University. The Hastings name runs through many years of Angola Mission history.

In 1917, at the meeting of the National Council, which met at First Church at Columbus, Ohio, a proposal was presented to the Black delegates. It was a proposal which called for a missionary station manned and supported by Black Congregationalists and the students of the American Missionary Association Institutions. The modest income from the Avery Arthington Fund would be used to supplement the proposal.

Henry Curtis McDowell was a delegate to the Council and was asked to be their first missionary. After prayerful consideration and consultation with his fiancée, he agreed. An Angola committee was formed with Dr. Moore serving as chairman and Dr. Proctor as its secretary. Dr. Moore, Dr. Proctor, and Henry Curtis McDowell began visiting Black Congregational Churches North and South, and all American Missionary Association Schools and Colleges to secure support for the Angola Mission.

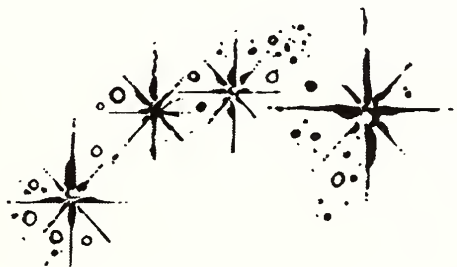
In 1919, Henry Curtis McDowell and his wife sailed to Portugal, where a three month delay helped sharpen their ability to speak Portuguese. They arrived in Angola in the middle of the dry season and began a long and successful mission. The rest is history. The Black churches responded wonderfully making it possible for a second family, the Samuel B. Coles, to join the McDowells. The support of Black Congregationalists was tremendous. On a single night at Central Church in New Orleans, Louisiana,

a gentleman volunteered to give the mission a new Ford automobile, a lady underwrote a building for the nursery and kindergarten; and the students and faculty at Tougaloo underwrote a modified reproduction of their new academic building. The Plymouth Church at Washington, D. C. gave funds for a girl's dormitory; and at the Young People's Summer Conference in Louisiana, they promised a permanent residence for the McDowells. In time, Dr. and Mrs. MacMillian from Bishop College in Texas came to the medical work, and in a short time a hospital was built.

Then came the Depression. The Coles family was in the States on furlough and for lack of funds could not return. The McDowells' furlough was impending, and with the illness of Mrs. McDowell, they had to leave. This period marked an end of the project as a distinctive effort of the Black Churches and the American Missionary Institution. A completely integrated approach was now the order of the day, and the Black missionaries would be recruited wherever there was opportunity and the churches were encouraged to increase their support for the total effort.

After an absence of 10 years, during which time Rev. McDowell's first wife died, Rev. McDowell married Ruth Alexander, and they went back to Angola where they enjoyed years of additional service.

This is only a small part of the story. The full story can be found in the Galanque Rooms of the Savory Library at Talladega College where the letters, articles, artifacts, papers, etc. of the Coles, the MacMillians, and the McDowells are classified and catalogued by the Department of Archives, and at the Amistad Center of Dillard University in New Orleans where the Archives of the American Missionary Association are catalogued. The story can also be found in the excellent book by Samuel Coles, "Preacher With A Plow" and Dr. MacMillian's book, "Majestic Heads" by Vantage Press.





MRS. RUTH ALEXANDER McDOWELL
DR. HENRY CURTIS McDOWELL

MISSIONARIES TO ANGOLA

MRS RUTH McDOWELL
1947-1959

DR HENRY CURTIS McDOWELL
1919-1939
1947-1959

DR. HENRY CURTIS McDOWELL

Dr. Henry Curtis McDowell, a retired (clergyman) Missionary of the United Church of Christ Board for World Ministries and Pastor Emeritus of the Church of the Open Door, UCC, was born in Epes, Alabama and reared in Miss. . He was educated at Talladega College (A. M. A. College) and had his graduate work in Theology at Hartford Seminary Foundation, Hartford, Connecticut.

Going to Angola, Africa for the first time in 1919, (he and his wife were the first Blacks to go as Missionaries and supported by Black Congregational Churches in U. S.) Dr. McDowell quickly attained a skill in the use of both Portuguese and African language equaled by few people. He was a member of a pioneer team that explored on foot, traveling several hundred miles, the whole of the Southern area of Angola. He and his wife selected the site of Bunjei (Galangue) to build the Mission Station and establish the Church and laid the foundation for a progressive work. Many of the buildings were erected under his supervision. Later when colleagues joined Dr. and Mrs. McDowell, many more buildings were erected and the Mission Station grew in every respect.

His missionary career was interrupted for 10 years by the protracted illness terminating in the death , of his wife, Bessie. During this period Dr. McDowell gave notable direction as Director and Pastor of the Lincoln -Dixwell School and Church, Kings Mountain, N. C., and as pastor of the Dixwell Avenue Congregational Church in New Haven, Connecticut.

Returning to the field in 1947 with the current Mrs. McDowell, Ruth, he immediately became the elder statesman of the American Board-United Church of Canada Mission Enterprise. Missionaries, young and old, and Africans had implicit trust in his assessment of any situation and in his judgement.

Since Dr. McDowell was being acknowledged as the wisest, the most successful in negotiations with the always difficult Portuguese government and with a countrywide reputation, it was decided that he should be moved from the still-peripheral (geographical speaking) station of Galangue to the more central station where he could be guide, counselor and leader for the mission. While stationed at Elende during the latter period of his astute diplomacy, to a measure of self-reliance and self-support equaled by few churches, with an accompanying program of vital and effective church extension. As Mission Treasurer, he added financial leadership to his other contributions.

During furlough in 1952-53, Dr. McDowell extended his influence right through the African Continent occupying the Africa Chair at Hartford Kennedy School of Missions. Missionaries of many Boards, serving in widely separated parts of the continent have testified to the value of what he gave them.

Dr. McDowell is an educator and scholar. He displays expertise in the Psychology, history and philosophy of the Umbundu tribe.

He has had pastorates in the U. S. A. — Chattanooga, Tenn., 1917-18; New Haven, Conn., 1944-47 and founding pastor of the Church of the Open Door UCC in Miami, Florida - 1959-67, of which he is pastor emeritus.

Served as Director of Lincoln Academy, and pastor of First Congregational UCC, Kings Mountain, N. C. - 1937-44.

Assisted in Race Relations to the late Dr. Charles Johnson of Fisk University (1937-44).

Served as Lecturer at the Hartford Seminary Foundation

Served as Lecturer at Chautauqua Institute, Chautauqua, N. Y.

Serve as a member of the Board of Directors for Homeland Ministries.

Served as Missionary for 31 years in Angola, W. Africa.

Collaborated in several books on aspects of African Missions and Cultures.

Contributed many articles to professional journals, etc., etc.

Elected 'Honorary Corporate Member' of the United Church Board for World Ministries.

Dr. McDowell is recipient of the Harmon Award for 'Distinguished Service in the Field of Religion.'

Awarded the UCBWM Medallion for missionary service.

Doctor of Divinity, Talladega College.

Dr. McDowell has two sons - Curtis F. McDowell, practicing attorney in Chicago, Ill., and Elmer H. McDowell, practicing architect in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands; three grandchildren, (a grandson who is a UCC Minister) and four great - grandchildren.

Dr. McDowell is married to Ruth Alexander McDowell who served with him in Angola W. Africa (1947-1959) under the United Church of Christ Board for World Ministries.



MRS. RUTH ALEXANDER McDOWELL

Mrs. Ruth Alexander McDowell was born and reared in the Lincoln Academy (A. M. A.) School Community, Kings Mountain , North Carolina.

Primary and Secondary education at Lincoln Academy, Kings Mountain, N. C.

Education continued: Barber Scotia College, Concord, N. C.; Bennett College, Greensboro, N. C.; Teacher's College, Winston-Salem, N. C.; Degree in primary and secondary education.

Mrs. McDowell has been a member of the Congregational and UCC Church all her life.

Brief career resume: Teacher in the public schools of North Carolina
Commissioned a Missionary to serve in Angola, W. Africa (UCBWM) 1947-59.
In Africa, Mrs. McDowell worked with pastor's wives, women, young adults and children. She also established a Children's Clinic.

Pastor's wife — full gamut

EXPERIENCES AND RELATIONSHIPS:

Member of Committee on Christian Education
District Chaiman - Missionary Education - Miami, Florida 1959-1967

1961 - 1967, Mrs. McDowell was a member of the following boards:

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED: Served as vice-president,; Chairman Christian World Mission
Served as consultant at International Relations Seminar at United Nations
Center, New York, N. Y. - 1964.

YWCA: Served as vice president, assistant treasurer, committee to study YWCA as a Christian
Delegate to two National YWCA Conventions.

FAMILY SERVICE BUREAU: Served on the Policy and Planning Committee.

GIRL SCOUTS OF TROPICAL FLORIDA: Served as a member of Public Relations Committee,
Nominating Committee.

COUNCIL OF UNITED FUND-WOMEN: District chairman of United Fund of Greater Miami.

WOMEN'S PLANNING COMMITTEE: Japan International Christian University.

HELPED WITH: Heart and cancer fund; Recruiter—Girl's Corp.; Women in Community Service.

1968—1976 - Corporate Member of the UCBWM; Member of the Board of Directors (UCBWM)

North Carolina - State Parliamentarian - Church Women United; Member of Board of Directors
Church Women United

Chairman - Committee on Church and Ministry - Western North Carolina Association
Member of Board of Directors Western North Carolina Association

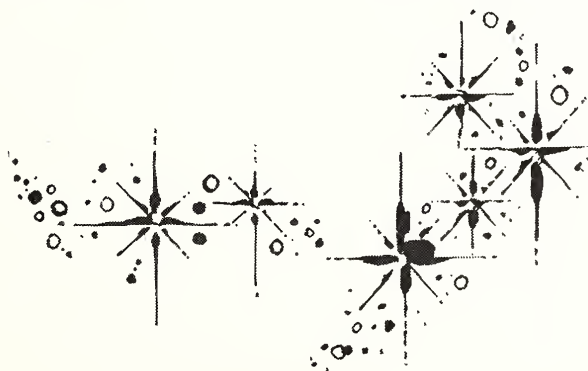
CURRENTLY SERVING: Local church membership - First Congregational UCC, Kings Mountain, N. C.
Member of Trustee Board
Director of Youth Ministry
Coordinator-Church Programming

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE: President of Church Women UCC, Western N. C. Association
Member Board of Directors - Southern Conference
Member Board of Directors, United Church Retirement Home

Vice-President - North Carolina Council of Churches

CIVIC AND FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS: Member-National Association of University Women
Life member - YWCA
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority - Vice-President

Mrs. McDowell is married to Dr. Henry Curtis McDowell (married 1944). They live in the Lincoln
Academy Community, Kings Mountain, North Carolina 28086 (Route 1, Box 222)



Lest We Forget:

THE CONVENTION
OF
THE SOUTH



THE CONVENTION OF THE SOUTH

(A Conference of the Congregational Christian Churches and later an acting Conference of the United Church of Christ until 1965)

The Convention of the South was a voluntary and forced Association of about 225 Black churches and 200 pastors of Congregational and Afro-Christian background. Organized at St. Marks United Church of Christ, Norfolk, Virginia in 1950, the Convention covered a wide geographical area including all of the southern states, the border states such as Kentucky, New Jersey and New York were all of Afro-Christian background who chose to maintain membership in the Convention rather than in the Northern Conference as a way of identifying with their roots. It should be observed that the Black Southern Churches and pastors had no such desire. They were forced, by the racial exclusion of the White Churches, to maintain a separate and unequal existence in the "Household of Faith."

As one studies the history of the Convention of the South, the temptation to romanticize is very real. One could argue the point that the Convention of the South was God's Institutional Gift to His Black Children of Congregational and Afro-Christian backgrounds to equip them to participate more fully and with greater dignity in the United Church of Christ. Percel Alston, Yvonne Delk, Andy Young, Milt Upton, Reuben Shears, II, Nick Hood, Jim Morrison, Marvin Morgan, Yvonne Beasley, Bill Green, Leon White and many others are all sons and daughters of the Convention of the South who are serving our church and society well. For 15 years, the Convention of the South provided the institutional and programmatic framework within which thousands of Black children, youth and adults were trained in various aspects of mission and ministry. Indeed it provided an arena within which Black people in the South, in New Jersey and in New York could practice, with dignity and appreciation the art of ministry. Moreover, it was the launching pad from which so much of our Black leadership in the UCC today was released.

One cannot think about Convention of the South without at the same time thinking about Dr. J. Taylor Stanley who served the Convention as its Superintendent throughout its history. It is equally true that Mrs. Stanley, in her own right as the first Black Social Worker among Black congregationists in the south gave more than duty required to the institutional and mission development of the convention.

The year 1957 was a history year in the life of both Black Congregationalists and Afro-Christians of the Convention of the South. The United Church of Christ was born and its constitution mandated a redistribution of churches on a geographical basis. By 1965 the Convention of the South was disbanded as an Acting Conference of the United Church of Christ and its churches and pastors received standing in the following UCC Conferences: Southern, Southeast, South Central, Missouri, and New York. Without a doubt, each of these conferences are enriched by a Black presence born and nurtured in the Convention of the South. There is a deep sense in which the United Church of Christ is being shaped and informed by that chapter in its history known as the Convention of the South.

NOTE: Books on the history of Black Congregationalists and Afro-Christians by Dr. J. Taylor and his son, Dr. A. Knighton Stanley have recently been published by Pilgrim Press, "The Children Is Crying", by A. Knighton Stanley is available as a trade book from the Publication Division of UCBWM. J. T. Stanley's book is available for limited circulation through the Higher Education and A. M. A. Division of UCBHM.



THE REVEREND J. TAYLOR STANLEY

THE REVEREND J. TAYLOR STANLEY

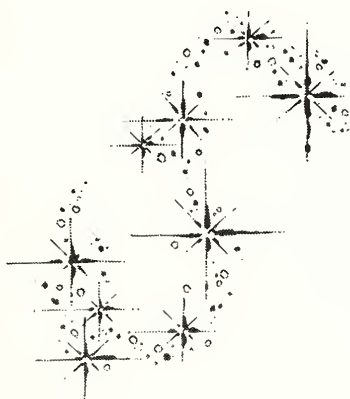
Born February 25, 1898, Centerville, Alabama. Attended public schools of Alabama, Bibb County Training School, and Lincoln Normal School of Marion, Alabama. Was enlisted in the Student Army Training Corps at Talladega College, Talladega, Alabama and has an honorable discharge from the Armed Services of the United States. Further education at Howard University and the School of Religion of Howard University. Honored with Doctor of Divinity Degree by Elon College, Elon, N. C.

Was ordained July 9, 1925 and was call to pastorate of the Howard Congregational Church, Nashville, Tennessee beginning July 1, 1925. Was married to Kathryn Turrentine September 15, 1927.

Served as pastor of the Howard Church, Gregory Church of Wilmington, N. C. and First Church of Dudley, N. C. for a total of seventeen years. Was Director of Rural Church Work in North Carolina and Virginia for four years; Superintendent of the Black Congregational Christian Church of the South, and (after its organization in 1951) of the Convention of the South of Congregational Christian Churches until this Convention united with the Southern Convention and the Southern Synod to form the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Since retirement in 1965, served as Interim Director of Dorchester Center, McIntosh, Georgia, and twice as Interim Director of Franklinton Center, Enfield, N. C.; also as Interim Pastor of Bethel Church of Statesville, N. C. and of Congregational United Church of Christ of High Point, N. C. During the High Point Pastorate the present beautiful church building was erected.

For nearly 52 years our marriage has been a grand experience both in family togetherness and in Christian Ministry. Each of our five children has excelled in his or her field of service. Our ministry has touched thousands of our people in our Black Churches of the South, in Conference, Association and Convention meetings, in Youth Camps and Conferences, in Women's, Laymen's and Ministers' Institutions, Retreats and Workshops. We never tire of remembering.





MRS. KATHRYN TURRENTINE STANLEY

MRS. KATHRYN TURRENTINE STANLEY

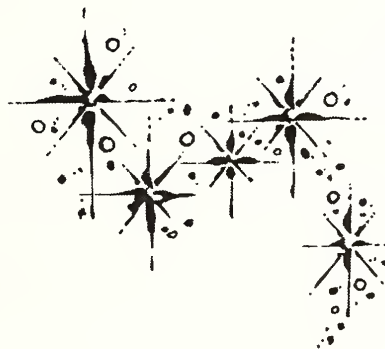
Kathryn Turrentine Stanley was born August 15, 1904 in Athens, Alabama, a daughter of the Reverend William J. Turrentine, Pastor of Trinity Church of Athens. Her mother, Jessie Wilson Turrentine, died soon after the birth of her fourth child, and the children were carried to Oaks, North Carolina and left in the care of their grandparents until their father remarried. They returned to Athens and entered Trinity School, an A. M. A. School in Athens.

Kathryn completed high school at Trinity and did college work at Knoxville College, Knoxville, Tennessee. She taught in public school in Alabama, and for one year at Gloucester Institute, Capahosic, Virginia (also an A. M. A. School). But her life's work has been religious work.

She was the first Black Summer Student Worker, serving in seven churches in Alabama, organizing, or reorganizing Sunday Schools, conducting classes with Sunday School teachers, working with leaders of women's organizations, and conducting Daily Vacation Bible School in each of the churches.

In 1925 she was employed by the Congregational Church Extension Society as Church Extension Worker, serving among Black churches of the Southeast. She continued in this work until her marriage, September 15, 1927.

Mrs. Stanley has the distinction of being the daughter, the wife and the mother of ministers of our denomination. As a minister's wife, she was a companion in all pastoral services; especially adept in Women's Work, Youth Work and Christian Education. As a superintendent's wife, she was concerned about the whole field, was devoted to the work of the church, and was a source of information and of inspiration for all with whom she worked. She was constantly prodding, believing that each of us could do better, and that all of us, working together, could not fail.



Lest We Forget:

FRANKLINTON CENTER

THE FRANKLINTON STORY

The Franklinton Story begins shortly after the close of the Civil War. George Washington Dunn, pastor of a Black Christian Church at Franklinton, North Carolina became actively concerned over the lack of educational opportunities for his people. He, with Sanford Long, a member of his congregation prevailed upon the North Carolina Colored Conference in 1871 to establish a high school at Franklinton. The enterprise was initiated, but lagging material resources delayed the project.

In 1878, Henry Edward Long, a son of Sanford Long, opened a private school in the Franklinton Christian Church. The abject poverty of this time threatened this worthy enterprise as the conference was unable substantially to supplement the insufficient funds already raised for this purpose. Financial assistance had to come from outside the south, and George W. Dunn began to search elsewhere for it.

Dunn made pleas for assistance to various concerns. Responses began as his letters were made public through various publications. Dunn's letters were read with sympathetic interest by J. P. Watson, Secretary of Missions in the Northern Church. Prompt action followed, contributions were received, and in October 1880 the Mission Board of the American Christian Convention dispatched George Young, a minister of the New York Eastern Conference, to become the principal of the Franklinton School, with H. E. Long as his assistant.

In 1882 after a visit by Jonathan Brush of New York in 1881, a full report was made on the school for presentation to the Christian Mission Board. The report received such a favorable response that a fund drive made it possible to erect a new school building and classes were no longer held in the church. The school was then incorporated as Franklinton Literary and Theological Institute. The American Christian Convention became its sponsor, and J. E. Brush became its soliciting agent.

In 1904 a charter was issued by the North Carolina Legislature in which the name of the school was changed to Franklinton Christian College. Studies included Bible, Philosophy, Natural Science, Music, English, Mathematics, History, Latin, and instructions in kindergarten and primary work.

H. E. Long became the president serving for thirteen years, F. S. Hendershot of Philadelphia followed for a three year term. In 1920 S. A. Howell of Newport News, Virginia accepted the office and was succeeded in 1922 by J. A. Henderson of Townsville, N. C. who officiated until 1930. During Henderson's administration Franklinton reached the long sought goal of accreditation as a standard school by the North Carolina Department of Accreditation.

In 1929 the authorities concluded that it was no longer practical to continue the operation of Franklinton as an independent college and closed its doors in 1930. Shortly afterward the institution merged with Bricks Junior College, Bricks, North Carolina.

For half a century Franklinton Christian College provided an educational opportunity that was paramount at that time. Had its founders not endured the struggles encountered in building and maintaining the school, many might never have been released from the shackles of illiteracy to prepare for a more Christian life. The productive careers of Franklinton's graduates have brought honor and credit to the institution, and these accomplishments have been sufficient reward for the sacrifices of founders and sponsors. The college not only trained youth in the Christian way of life but also served as an asset to the clergy. Black Christians have every right to be proud of the Institutions record.

Bricks School now known as Franklinton Center was first established in 1895 by Mr. T. S. Inborden, a Fisk Graduate, and Dr. William E. Beard who was then Executive Secretary of the American Missionary Association.

From the beginning, Bricks School was concerned with the plight of the poorest of God's children.

From a standard Elementary school, Bricks was one of the first twelve year schools to become accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in the South for Negroes.

In the early 1920's the Bricks School became Bricks Junior College to prepare teachers for the public schools which were slowly being built in the area.

Along with the Great Depression of the '30 came the closing of many institutions - among these was Bricks Junior College. The American Missionary Association (AMA) decided to establish a program at Bricks that would serve a large number of sharecroppers in the area. Thus began the Bricks Rural Life School.

One of the tasks of this school was adult education - teaching people how to keep records, the uses of credit, legal documents, availability of resources and the responsibilities of citizenship which included registering and voting.

In the middle of the 1950's a merger was effected between Bricks and Franklinton as indicated earlier. Although the Christian College was founded years prior to the establishment of Bricks School, each had a similar interest and work history training the leadership for more than 150 Negro Congregational Christian Churches in North Carolina and Virginia. When the merger was completed the name of the merged institution became Franklinton Center, Inc. at Bricks.

With the coming of the '60's Franklinton Center became involved in the struggle to gain voting rights and social and racial justice for Negroes. One task the Center engaged in was establishing the registration of local residents for voting. Another task was getting access to loans for farmers.

Franklinton Center had several opportunities to expand its program during the '60's. In the summer of 1966, high school graduates from poverty families were awarded college scholarships through an organization called P. A. C. E. (Program For Assuring College Education For Poverty Youth).

Another feature of the summer's program was a sort of Peace Corps in reverse. There were college students from London, England and Hawaii as well as from the U. S., who spent a summer at Franklinton. These young people and their leaders worked with the farm families in the Bricks and Whitakers Community helping to refurbish homes and cultivate crops. They also helped with the small children in the day camps in these communities.

The story of Franklinton Center cannot be complete without mentioning the efforts of the Reverend and Mrs. Judson King to raise money for two monumental projects - the building of a dining hall and swimming pool during the mid-sixties;

This has been a brief account of seventy-five years of work by those dedicated to a common goal - one of improving and increasing the spiritual, educational, and emotional growth of Blacks. May God continue to Bless Franklinton Center. "Our Home, Sweet Home."



MRS. ORA WASHINGTON KING
DR. WILLIAM JUDSON KING

WILLIAM JUDSON KING

William Judson King was born in a sharecropper's cabin in the Carolinas in 1898. His father died before he was six years of age and his mother Matilda, hired herself out to the local landlord for eight dollars per month. After a few years she moved to Flat Rock, N. C. to serve as cook for a Mr. Meminger, who was the son of the Secretary of State for the late Confederacy. Schools were either poor or non-existent in the area so she shipped young Judson off to an American Missionary School at Kings Mountain, N. C. After high school he subsequently attended Talladega College, Talladega Theological Seminary and Fisk University. During his years as a student he served the Sunday School Extension Society several summers and searched out American Missionary property where day schools had been abandoned in Southeast Georgia under the late Dr. Alfred Lawless.

In July 1925 he was called to minister to the Congregational Church at Lexington, Kentucky. After two years he married his college sweetheart, Ora Washington of Quincy Florida. They have one daughter, Wilma King Coble and three grandsons, one of which graduated from Fisk, another is at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia and the youngest is finishing high school this year (1979). After seventeen years in Lexington, Kentucky, Judson and Ora went to Trinity High School in Athens, Alabama where he became principal and Ora an instructor in homemaking. In 1956 they came to Franklinton Center at Bricks, N. C. from which he retired in January 1969.

During his active years he served the Mission Council on the Speakers Bureau, the Social Action Commission and as a member of the Collegiate Staff of the Department of Town and Country Church. Since retirement Judson has travelled widely speaking for the Stewardship Council and has served locally as interim minister of the Mayflower Church. He still speaks among the local churches in the vicinity of Detroit.



MRS. ORA WASHINGTON KING

Ora Washington King was born October 7, 1901 in Quincy, Florida. Her father heard about the American Missionary School, Allen Normal in Thomasville, Georgia and decided to send Ora there for her elementary education. Later she transferred to Talladega where she attended high school and graduated from college in 1925.

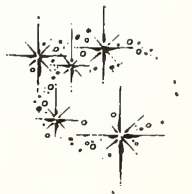
She taught in Clearwater, Florida until she married William Judson King, whom she met in college. After the wedding in October 1927, she spent the next few years with the many and sundry duties of a pastor's wife and the rearing of her daughter, Wilma.

When her husband was appointed Principal of the Trinity High School in Athens, Alabama she taught classes and managed the school lunchroom. That chore lasted until her husband was elected President of Franklinton Center in 1956. Ora eventually became Hostess of the Center and with it many duties; working with the local youth in the Community Church and served for a term as President of the Women's Fellowship of the Convention of the South.

Upon retirement, she moved with her husband to Detroit, Michigan where she joined the Plymouth United Church becoming active in the 'Go-Getter Club' and the Women's Fellowship of the church. Ora has also done a number of special chores in her 'Block Club' since being here.

Lest We Forget:

THE MINISTERS WHO
SERVED US WELL





THE REVEREND OSCAR HAZELL

Rev. Hazell was born in Alamance County, North Carolina. He is the son of Charlie and Ophelia Hazell.

At the age of ten, he professed Christ and joined Union Chapel Christian Church. In 1917 he entered Franklinton Center, and later attended the National Training School of Religion in Durham, North Carolina.

After attending Franklinton Center and Livingston College to which he received a scholarship, Rev. Hazell was licensed in 1918. A year later he pastored his first church, Patillo Congregational Christian, and was ordained in 1928. He served this church for six years. His other pastorates included the following:

Union Grove Congregational Christian Church, Guilford County, North Carolina - 8 years

Church in Siler City, North Carolina - 3 years

United Congregational Christian Church - 20 years.

First United Congregational Christian - 1 year.

United Church of Christ, Yadkinville, North Carolina - 5 years.

Since his retirement in 1969, Rev. Hazell has been ministering in various churches when called.



John Percy Mangrum was born in Wake County, North Carolina, March 13, 1892, in a one room log cabin, daubed with red mud. His education was delayed so that he was eleven years old in the first reader. He graduated from high school at the age of twenty-eight.

John Percy received the A. B. Degree from Shaw University in 1927 and the M. A. from North Carolina University in 1947. He also received a certificate in Alcohol Studies from Yale University in 1952. The Reverend Mangrum served as principal of the Albion Academy High School at Franklinton, N. C. for 26 years. He retired in 1959 and accepted a position as Rehabilitation Supervisor at the North Carolina State Prison, Raleigh, N. C. Here he served until he reached mandatory retirement at age seventy.

The Reverend Mangrum pastored several churches over a period of 54 years. During this time he served as president of the Sunday School Convention, President of the Convention of the South of Congregational Christian Churches, which covered 17 states. He also served as treasurer of the North Carolina Conference and of Franklinton Center. For many years he was a member of the National Committee of World Missions.

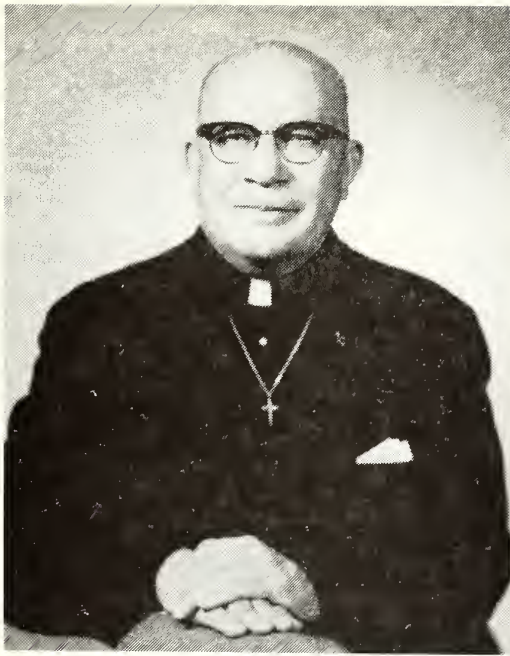
He was cited for meritorious service in Community Development in Franklin County N. C. by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in 1973. He also received a Citation for Meritorious Service in the Ministry, Education and Civil Rights during the Commencement Exercises at Shaw University in 1978.

He has had two wives, both professional women. The first, Burnetta Lee Mangrum was a graduate of Union Christian College, Merom, Indiana. She was the mother of their only child, Ruby. The second, Irene L. Mangrum was a former Dean of Women at St. Augustine College, Raleigh, N. C. His daughter is now the wife of the Reverend W. E. Banks, Pastor of First Baptist Church, Thomasville, N. C. Ruby is a teacher in the Thomasville School System. Both of his wives have, "gone on to be with the Lord." 26



THE REVEREND JOHN PERCY MANGRUM





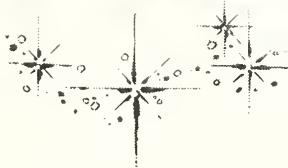
THE REVEREND JOHN ALBRIGHT, SR.

The Reverend John Albright was born July 28, 1895 in Alamance County, North Carolina. He married the former Pearl Smith (now deceased) and has two sons - William and Charles.

Rev. Albright was educated at Franklinton Christian College and A&T College (now A&T State University). He was ordained on November 5, 1918 and since that time has served the following churches:

Archers Grove UCC, Burlington, N. C. (60yrs.)
 St. Luke Christian Church (28 yrs.)
 Popular Springs UCC, Raleigh, N. C. (11 yrs.)
 Holly Springs UCC - Holly Springs, N. C. (18 yrs.)
 Hawfield UCC - Mebane, N. C. (7 yrs.)

Rev. Albright is one of the two living founders of the former Lincoln Conference in North Carolina where he served as secretary for thirty-two years.

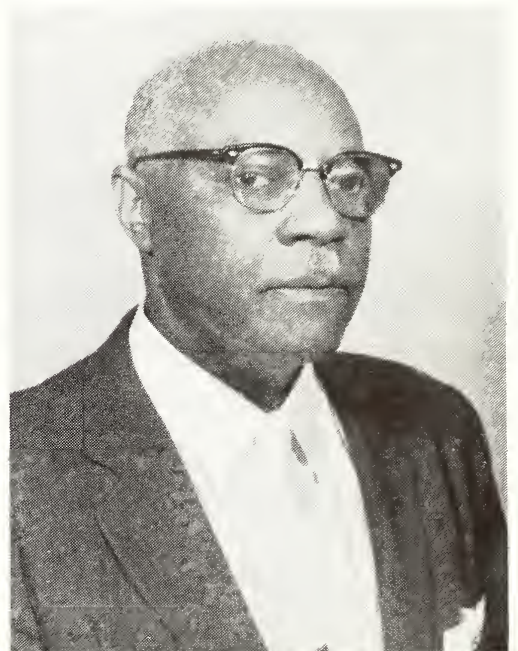
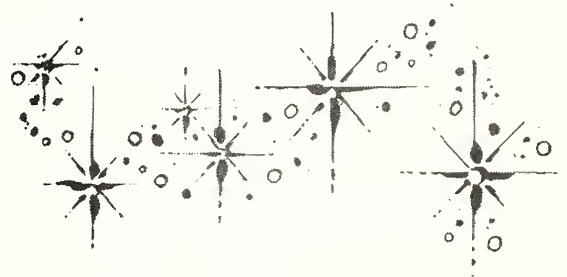


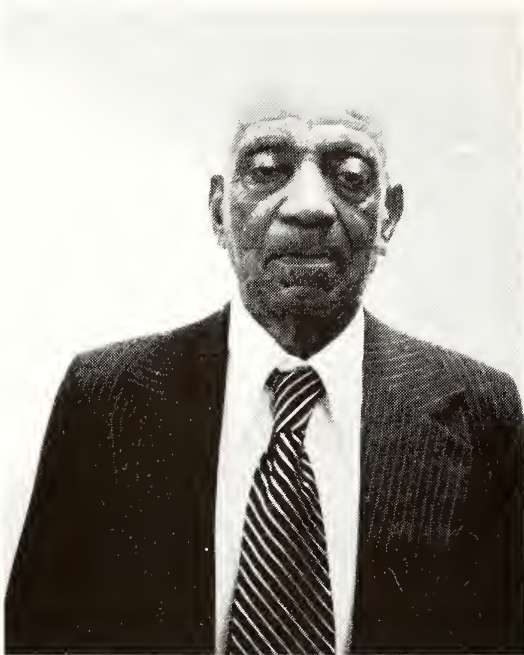
THE REVEREND ROBERT JAMES ALSTON, SR.

Mr. Alston was born in Norfolk, Virginia on March 17, 1895. Son of Sonie and Elizabeth Alston, he was educated in the Norfolk Public Schools, Norfolk Mission College and Franklinton Christian College. He was married to the late Louise Harrison of Norfolk in 1910 to which union were born ten children; nine of which live in various sections of the country.

Mr. Alston was born and baptized in First Baptist Church where his father was a deacon. He began his ministry in the African Methodist Episcopal Church as a licensed preacher in 1921 and pastored the A. M. E. Church in Windsor, Virginia and later St. Marks A. M. E. Church in Norfolk, Virginia. He was received in the Eastern Virginia Conference of the Afro-Christian Convention in 1928 and was ordained in 1929. Mr. Alston has served the following UCC Churches as pastor over a long period of years: Union, Norfolk; Providence, Chesapeake; St. Marks, Norfolk; Zion, Suffolk; and Zion Bethel, Portsmouth. Over the years he served in various capacities in the Eastern Virginia Conference and Afro-Christian Convention. He was instrumental in the founding of the Convention of the South and served on the trustee board for many years.

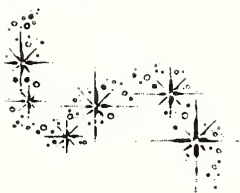
Mr. Alston served as pastor of the Baptist House of Prayer, New York City for twenty-one years. During this time he was active in the New York Conference of the UCC and supported the denominational OCWM programs. He was elected pastor Emeritus upon his retirement from the Baptist House of Prayer in 1970. Among his nine children, who work in various careers around the country, Mr. Alston has two sons who are UCC ministers: James Arthur, pastor of Emanuel-St. Marks, Saginaw, Michigan and Percel Odel, Secretary for Black and Urban Church Development for the United Church of Christ for Homeland Ministries. He has thirty-four grandchildren, twenty-one great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. Mr. Alston resides at his home 2422 Ludlow Street, Norfolk, Virginia.





THE REVEREND JAMES H. HOOKER

Rev. James Hooker was born April 8, 1895 in Randolph County and attended public school there. In 1917, he felt the call to preach, but one year later was called into the army. He began preaching in 1925 and joined the Lincoln Conference. He served as president of the Sunday School Convention for a number of years. He was also Vice President of the Conference. He accepted his first pastorate in 1928. At present, Rev. Hooker has three churches - one which he has pastored forty-eight years.



THE REVEREND JUNIUS O. LEE

Rev. Lee was born and reared in Nansemond County and began his ministry there in 1929. Now retired, Rev. Lee pastored the following churches:

St. Paul Christian, Hansom, Virginia. He was there for ten years and built a church.

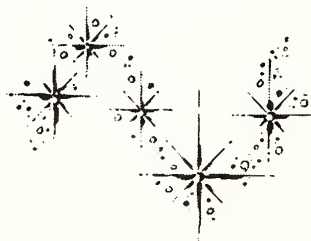
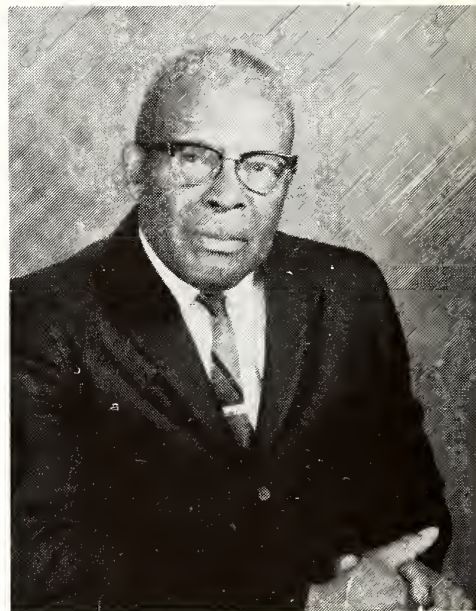
Tabernacle - He served this church for forty-three years.

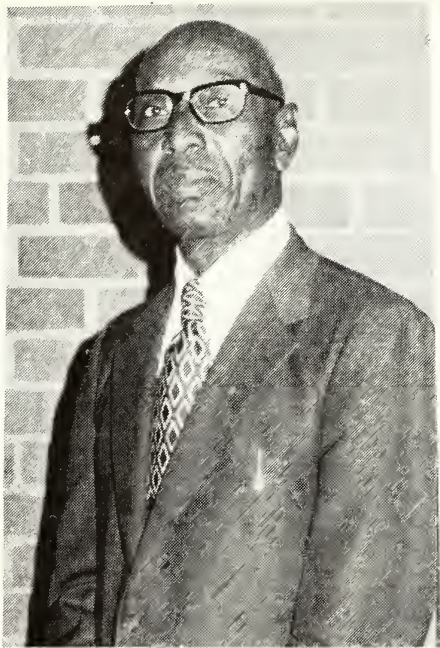
Bethlehem - 1940-1949

Bethany - 1949-1964

His last church was Smalls Chapel in North Carolina.

He is married to the former Mary Lue Knight, and is the father of five children.





THE REVEREND RICHARD D. BULLOCK, JR.



Joseph H. Copeland was born on May 29, 1900 at Buckhorn in the County of Nansemond, Va. This area is now Suffolk, Va. His grandparents came to this country from the East Indies, landed in the Northeastern part of the country and finally settled in North Carolina, in Halifax and Warren Counties.

The Reverend Copeland's formal education was interrupted at age 12 when he was taken out of school. However, he continued to study and attended night classes. He also studied at the Colored Union Mission Minister's School that was directed by the late Dr. James Albert Handy. This school had been approved by the Eastern and Western Virginia Christian Conferences. Further study was done at Franklinton Christian College and at Franklinton Center Institutes for many years.

He was married in 1919 to Miss Ethel Cheeks and to this union was born 7 daughters and three sons. Two of the sons are in the Christian Ministry and one is deceased.

He responded to the 'Call to Preach' in 1927 and was ordained in 1930 after three more years of study.

His first pastorate was St. Mary's Christian Church, Whaleyville, Va. He served this congregation until he was called to Zion Bethel Christian Church, Portsmouth, Va. in 1947. He retired from the active pastorate on July 1978.

During his ministry he has served the church in many ways, both locally and nationally. He was President of the Eastern Virginia Conference, President of the Interdenominational Ministers Forum. A member of the Portsmouth Ministerial Alliance and the Hampton Minister's Conference. He has represented the Conference in the General Council in Boston, Mass.

After retiring from the pastorate he is still actively involved in vital ministries. He serves as a Volunteer Minister at the Portsmouth General Hospital and is in frequent demand as a preacher for many of the area churches.

Rev. Bullock was born in Drewry, North Carolina on May 6, 1908. He attended Nutbush Elementary in Manson, North Carolina and Christian College in Franklinton, North Carolina. He performed his undergraduate studies at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina and his graduate studies at North Carolina College, Durham, North Carolina.

Rev. Bullock served as principal of the following schools:

Afton School, Warren County - 1935-37

Sandy Grove School - 1937-39

Nutbush School, Vance County - 1940-53

He was the supervise teacher of the Townsville Headstart Center from 1966-1970.

Rev. Bullock's pastoral experiences include the following:

Ebenezer Congregational Christian Church,
Henderson, N. V. 1935-1939

Children's Chapel, Congregational Christian Church,
Graham, N. C. 1945-1952

Beavers Chapel Congregational Christian Church,
Zebulon N. C. 1952-1959

Corinth UCC, Wake Forest, N. C. 1959-1972

Jerusalem UCC, Palmer Springs, Va. 1960-1967

Mt. Zion UCC Church, Henderson, N. C. 1960-1979

Burchette Chapel UCC, Manson, N. C. 1966-1979

In the Southern Conference he has held the positions on the following:

Nominating Committee

Board of Directors

President, North Carolina Church School

Church Life and Leadership Commission



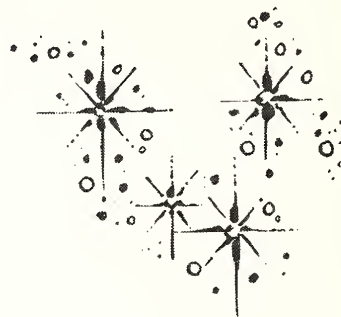
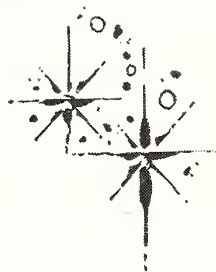
THE REVEREND JOSEPH H. COPELAND



THE REVEREND C. N. DORTCH

Rev. Dortch attended the Ministers' Class in New Jersey for three years. He studied at Franklinton Center for two years during which time he led the Burlington Gospel Singers. His leadership of this group lasted twenty-one years.

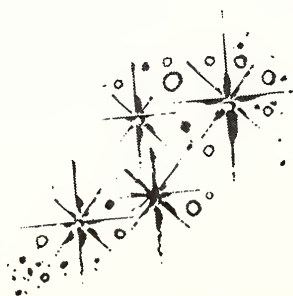
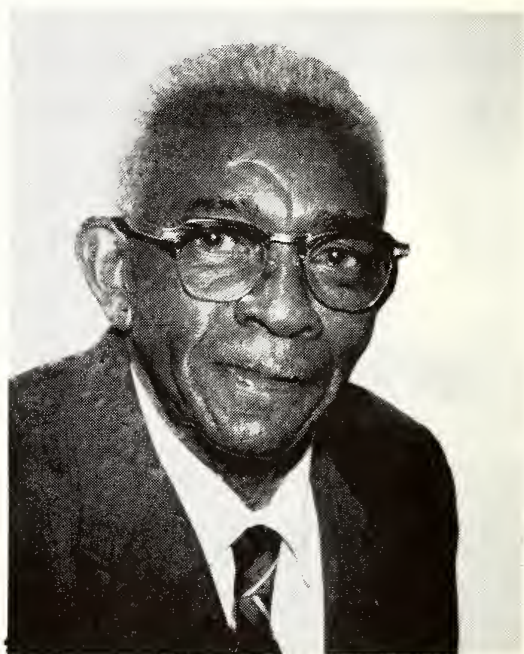
The first church he pastored was Ellington Grove Baptist Church followed by thirteen years of service at High Point. In 1966 he was called to Raleigh where he is now pastor.



THE REVEREND WESLEY FREEMAN

Rev. Freeman was born in Nansemond County in 1906 where he attended Cannon Baptist Church and Oak Grove Baptist, and completed public school there in 1930. Five years later he attended Booker T. Washington High School in Norfolk, Virginia and completed a business course there. In 1954 Rev. Freeman studied Christian Education under Dr. Freeman and the following year he studied at Elizabeth City College in North Carolina. This was followed by ministerial studies at Norfolk State College.

From 1930-1948 he served as an usher and deacon in New Calvary Baptist Church. In 1957 he came to Tabernacle United Church of Christ where he entered the ministry and served as supply minister. He also pastored Galation United Church of Christ.





MRS. ELIZA DURHAM

Mrs. Eliza Durham was born and reared in Vance County. Having been a Christian since her early youth, she joined the church in 1913 (then Oak Level Christian Church), now Oak Level United Church of Christ.

She was married in 1916, raised five children, and continued to serve as secretary of the Sunday School.

By 1935, she had begun work with the Junior and Adult Bible Classes; the Missionaries, and Junior Choir, and served as a Home Missionary for several years.

Mrs. Durham was past president of the number 3 Union, and assisted the Home Demonstration Agents and the 4-H Girls Club in Vance County. She also served on the Executive Board of the Eastern Association for four years.

On several occasions, Mrs. Durham served in the pastoral position.



WE CONTINUE OUR TRIBUTE TO MINISTERS 70 AND OVER

The Planning Committee is also proud of the years of service and devotion that the following ministers have rendered to Black churches. Their collective years of service span from 1915 to the present. The committee was not able to secure all the data hoped for including their pictures and their biographical sketches. However, from our collective memories we present their significant ministries.

THE REVEREND HARRY L. BLACKWELL is a native of Norfolk, Virginia and was ordained into the ministry in 1915 which makes him the oldest living Afro-Christian minister in Virginia. He has served many churches including the Macedonia UCC in Norfolk, Virginia.

THE REVEREND DAVID P. BUTTS is a native of West Mendenhall, Virginia and was nurtured in the Christian faith during his early years at Providence UCC in Chesapeake, Virginia. He was ordained into the ministry in 1946. He has pastored several churches including Hawfield Chapel in Haw River, North Carolina and St. Marks UCC in Berkley, Virginia. He has served St. Marks for the past 25 years.

DR. NIMROD C. CALHOUN was born in Talladega, Alabama and was ordained into the ministry in 1922. He was very active in the North Carolina Conference of Congregational Churches. For many years he served in the field of public education as teacher and principal. He has served New Emanuel UCC in Charlotte, North Carolina for the past 35 years.

THE REVEREND THOMAS C. HAMANS was ordained into the ministry in 1921. He was active in the North Carolina Southern Conference of the Christian Church. For over 30 years he served as the pastor of Manley Street Christian Church in Raleigh, North Carolina. After his retirement, he returned to his farm where he continues to use his skills in the art of farming.

THE REVEREND JAMES M. HARRIS was ordained into the ministry in 1925. He is now the pastor of Rand Street UCC in Garner, North Carolina where he has served for the past thirteen years.

THE REVEREND WILLIAM M. LAKE was ordained into the ministry in 1922. He is the first Afro-Christian pastor to complete Seminary education. He is a graduate of Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina and served as President of Old Franklinton Center which was located in Franklinton, North Carolina. He also served as President of the Lincoln Conference of the Afro-Christian Church. For many years he was the pastor of Ebenezer UCC in Burlington, North Carolina. He also served Children's Chapel UCC in Graham, North Carolina. Even after he retired, he organized and built a church in Burlington, North Carolina. He is regarded as one of the deans in ministry in Black churches.

THE REVEREND CURTIS P. MEADOWS was ordained into the ministry in 1938. He is the son of an Afro-Christian minister. He was very active in the North Carolina Christian Sunday School Convention and was very faithful in his attendance at the old Franklinton Minister's Institute. He has served several churches in the North Carolina Christian Conference including a very significant ministry as pastor of Rowlands Chapel Christian Church in Henderson, North Carolina.

THE REVEREND L. J. MORRIS was ordained into the ministry in 1950. He gave many years of service to the Bethany Congregational Church in Sedalia, North Carolina and Melville Congregational Church in Haw River, North Carolina. He is now retired and working on his farm in North Carolina.

THE REVEREND FLOYD MILES was ordained into the ministry in 1967.

THE REVEREND CLAUDE C. SIMMONS was ordained into the ministry in 1931. He can be considered the 'grandfather' of the Eastern North Carolina Conference. He is still active as pastor of the West Street

Christian Church in New Bern, North Carolina where he has served for the past 46 years. He is the father of a son who is also serving in the ministry, the Reverend Handy Simmons. His son serves as pastor of several churches in the former Eastern North Carolina Christian Conference.

THE REVEREND ROMIE R. SKEETER was ordained into the ministry in 1945. He was nurtured in the ministry during his early years at Mt. Ararat UCC in Suffolk, Virginia. He served for many years as pastor of Windsor Grove UCC in Windsor, Virginia and as secretary of the former Western Virginia Christian Conference.

THE REVEREND WILLIAM H. THOMAS was ordained into the ministry in 1929. He grew up in Henderson, North Carolina and pastored many churches in the former North Carolina Christian Conference, the Lincoln Christian Conference, the Eastern North Carolina Christian Conference and the Southern North Carolina Christian Conference. He can be considered one of the most successful rural pastors in the State of North Carolina having built many churches. He continues to support Franklinton Center. He is presently the pastor of several effective churches.



LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

Lift ev'ry voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path thro' the blood of the slaughtered
Out from the gloomy past till now we stand at last
When the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou hast by Thy might, led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.



A STATEMENT OF APPRECIATION

WE ARE DEEPLY INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE
IN BRINGING THIS CELEBRATION EVENT TO FRUITION:

THE PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR THIS EVENT

Mrs. Lula Copeland, Chairperson of the Event
Mrs. Margaret Beckett
Rev. John Little
Rev. Jerry Moore
Rev. James Morrison
Rev. Yvonne Delk - Special Advisor to Committee

EVANGELINE GRANT REDDING and GARY GRANT of the TILLERY COMMUNITY
who shared their skills and talents to help make this Event a success.

THE REVEREND RONALD MORRIS, Executive Director of Franklinton Center who
worked with the Committee to facilitate the arrangements and accommodations.

THE REVEREND WESLEY HOTCHKISS, of the Division of Higher Education and the
American Missionary Association of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries,
who provided copies of Rev. Stanley's book for this occasion.

THE REVEREND JOSEPH M. COPELAND, who served as consultant to the committee in securing
and preparing background data on the Convention of the South and Franklinton Center, and also
for providing typing resources for preparation of the Program Booklet.



